

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 75
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize James G. Harris for his distinguished service in the Korean War.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee, the "Volunteer State", has a long and proud heritage of providing soldiers when our country and its freedom have been threatened; and

WHEREAS, James G. Harris, a heroic veteran of the Korean War, is an important part of that storied Tennessee legacy; and

WHEREAS, born September 13, 1931, Mr. James G. Harris enlisted in the United States Army in November 1948 and was honorably discharged in July of 1952; and

WHEREAS, during the Korean War, which commenced June 25, 1950, Mr. Harris served nobly with the 70th Heavy Tank Battalion, which was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division; and

WHEREAS, following deployment from Fort Knox, Kentucky, the 70th Heavy Tank Battalion arrived in Pusan, Korea on August 7, 1950; without respite or relief, this courageous soldier and his brothers in arms were sent directly into combat to fight the North Korean communist aggressors; and

WHEREAS, fighting valiantly in many brutal battles, Mr. Harris often experienced trying circumstances and difficult struggles while serving with his unit; the sacrifices of James Harris and his fellow soldiers constitute a gift to their fellow Americans that can in no way be repaid; and

WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged, James Harris adeptly put to good use the perseverance and highly-developed character that sustained him in battle; an astute professional, he worked as a supervisor, a manager, a business owner, and also as an employee of the United States Postal Service before his retirement on September 13 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris has served on the advisory board of the State of Tennessee for the Korean War Memorial and was Chairman of Wilson and Sumner Counties for the memorial from 1980 to 1985; as founder of the 70th Heavy Tank Battalion/Armor Association, he served as the organization's Director and President from 1984 to 1985; and

WHEREAS, James Harris was honored for distinguishing himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States beginning 7 August 1950 through 1951; he is a member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, a constant and faithful servant to the Lord, Mr. Harris is a devoted member of Temple Baptist Church in Lebanon; in addition to serving on the Board of Directors of the Gospel Text Mission in Nashville, he is currently serving as the Director and Chaplain of the 70th Heavy Tank Battalion/Armor Association; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated family man who has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order, James Harris was blessed with the loving companionship of his wife of fifty wonderful years, Ann Skipworth Harris, who passed away in September of 2002; he is also the proud father of two sons and a loving grandfather to three grandsons; and

WHEREAS, during his military service, Mr. Harris performed the many demanding duties of a soldier in an outstanding manner throughout the many months his battalion engaged the enemy in combat; he repeatedly demonstrated utmost daring and devotion to duty despite intense enemy fire and has since become a highly valued and respected member of his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris's ability, bravery under enemy fire, and untiring efforts to successfully complete each assignment during the war reflect heroically upon himself and the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, James G. Harris performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding and his bravery under fire was in the best tradition of members of the armed forces of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the generation of those who served and died during the Korean War have left behind an unparalleled legacy of courage, commitment to duty and country, selfless sacrifice and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, this spirit resonates more strongly than ever today as America confronts a new enemy who targets innocent civilians with unconventional means of terrorist warfare and whose sworn ultimate goal is to destroy democracy and the fundamental fabric of democracies throughout the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor with reverence and awe those survivors of the Korean War such as Former Staff Sergeant James G. Harris of B Company, 70th Tank Battalion, United States Army, Korea 1950 - 1951, who selflessly risked his liberty and his life, so that America may continue to experience the freedoms they so valiantly defended, and we offer our thanks for his great courage and commitment to duty during a trying and perilous time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.